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The Ways and Means Committee

Hearing on Social Security's Death Records – 2 Feb 2012

28 Jan 2012

Dear Chairman Johnson,

I am writing in regard to the Social Security Death Records and the current discussion in your committee about the Death Master Files. I am a tax paying citizen and an amateur genealogist. I use the Social Security Death Master Files on a daily basis, to verify the death dates of the people that are my relatives. The actual Social Security number, that is also recorded with the files are not as important to me as the full name, address and birth and death date that are recorded. It is imperative to have the correct death date to continue with my work in search of supporting documentation. Closing the files to the general public would be very detrimental to my work. I encourage your committee to continue to keep the Death Master files available to the public for the legal use of tax paying citizens in genealogical research.

Thank you for this opportunity,

Kathleen S. Johnson

U.S. Citizen